MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): His final reply has not been received.

Construction of a todu in the Nattakam pakuthi.

239. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the local inhabitants have made a request to them for the construction of a *todu* through Pallam and Mariapalli in the Nattakam pakuthi of the Kottayam taluk;

(*b*) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(*c*) whether they will arrange for an enquiry into and report on the need for the expenditure on the construction of the *todu*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The petition was forwarded to the Chief Engineer.

(*c*) The matter is being investigated.

Maistries of the P. W. Department.

240. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the maistries of the Public Works Department possess any technical examination qualification;

(*b*) whether they are aware that, as their appointments are temporary, the number of maistries is more than what is required; and

(*c*) if they will enquire whether, in the interests of efficiency, it is necessary to make their appointments permanent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; most of the maistries possess technical qualifications.

(*b*) The number of maistries is within the limit of requirements.

(*c*) The Government will consider the matter.

Average area of land available in the State per head.

241. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state the average area of land available for enjoyment per head of the population in Travancore, excepting backwaters, forests, *poramboke*s and *tarisu* lands?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 60·21 cents per head of population.

Registry of lands to members of Depressed Classes in the Kottayam Taluk.

242. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of applications submitted by members of the depressed classes in 1103, for the registry of lands in the Kottayam taluk;

(*b*) the number of applications submitted in the previous year but pending in 1103;

(*c*) the number of applications granted in 1103 and the area assigned under such applications; and

(*d*) the number of applications rejected and the reasons therefor?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 10.

(*b*) 2.

(*c*) 5; 2 acres and 24½ cents.

(*d*) 3 were rejected, the reason being that the lands applied for were not available for registry.

Registry of poramboke land in Vijayapuram pakuthi.

243. MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that, since 1097, members of the depressed classes have been applying to the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Dewan Peishkar, and the Tahsildar, Kottayam, for the registry of the *poramboke* land comprised in Survey Number 782/1 in the Vijayapuram pakuthi;

(*b*) the number of such applications;

(*c*) the nature of the action taken thereon;

(*d*) whether any part of the land has been assigned;

(*e*) if so, the acreage assigned; and

(*f*) the reason for not assigning the remaining portion?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Some applications have been received from members of the depressed classes for the registry of Survey No. 782/1 (river *poramboke*) in the Vijayapuram pakuthi, Kottayam taluk.

(*b*) Ten such members have applied on several occasions.

(*c*) and (*f*) On enquiry it was found that some members of the depressed classes had occupied 1 acre and 15 cents in the Survey Number and steps were accordingly taken to register that portion in their names. At that stage a communication was received from the authorities of the Devaswom Department to the effect that the area should not be registered since it was necessary for the officiating priest (*Santikaran*) of the Sirkar Vadavatur temple to bathe, and for purposes of *Arat* during Utsavam time. Thereupon, action was taken against the occupants under the Land Conservancy Regulation and the encroachments were ordered to be vacated. On appeal, the Dewan Peishkar held that there was no necessity for immediate eviction. On further representations from the members of the depressed classes, the present Dewan Peishkar also inspected the spot and it was decided by him that a portion of the land might be registered in favour of the depressed classes and that the remaining portion need alone be retained as *poramboke*.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) 64 cents.

Deposit of firearms in Police Stations for purposes of renewal of licenses.

244. MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any provision to the effect that firearms should be deposited in Police Stations for purposes of renewing licenses therefor;

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